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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,991	03/15/2001	Kiyomi Sakamoto	2001_0308A	3734

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EXAMINER
PRENDERGAST, ROBERTA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2628	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/805,991	SAKAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Roberta Prendergast	2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>7/14/2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *15,16,20,35,36,40,45,52,63,64,66,68,70 and 72* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *15,16,20,35,36,40,45,52,70 and 72* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *63,64,66 and 68* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 March 2001* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/14/2006*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Art Unit Designation has changed from 2671 to 2628

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "S104" has been used to designate steps S104-S106 and step S105 has been used to designate step S107 in Fig. 12, see paragraphs [0112]-[0115].

The drawings are further objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description:

Fig. 34, element 338 is used to indicate element 348 in the specification, see paragraph [0176]; Fig. 36, element 5 is used to indicate element 6 in the spec, see paragraph [0186]; Fig. 42, element S617; Fig. 44, element S6162 is not mentioned.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37

CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be

notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The

objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 63, 64, and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Okude et al. U.S. Patent No. 6175802 in view of Yoshida U.S. Patent

No. 5699056 and Iwamura et al. U.S. patent No. 5602564.

Referring to claims 63, 64, and 66, Okude et al. teaches a map display device for

converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object

model for arrangement on a map image, said map display device comprising: an input

part for receiving an instruction from a user (Fig. 1 (elements 1-4 & 1-5); column 4, lines

62-67); a map data storage part for storing map data (Fig. 1 (element 1-3); column 4,

lines 53-61); an object model display information storage part for storing object model

display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows

the user to understand content of the communications information on the map image

(Fig. 5 (elements 3-7, data read unit) & 19 (elements 19-1 & 19-2); column 7, lines 26-

37); a communications part for receiving the communications information, the

communications information including information which varies in real time (Fig. 1

(elements 1-7 thru 1-11) & 5 (element 3-5), i.e. the current location detection unit

indicates information which varies in real time; column 5, lines 1-15) wherein the

communication information includes a traffic information receiver, which receives

information regarding traffic congestion, road construction or road closures (claim 63),

available parking, etc (column 5, lines 15-25); a map data arranging part for creating the

at least one object model by interpreting the communications information and the object

model display information provided by said object model display information storage

part and arranging the at least one object model at a position on the map image based

on the communications information (Figs. 1 (element 1-1), 3, 5 & 19; columns 5-6, lines

50-19; columns 6-7, lines 55-8, i.e. the operation and processing unit is understood to

be the map data arranging unit); and a display part for displaying a result map image

including the map image and the at least one object model obtained by said map data

arranging part (Figs. 1 (element 1-2) & 24 (element 24-5); column 4, lines 45-53) but

does not specifically teach at least one 3D object model on the map nor wherein said

map data arranging part arranges the at least one object model representing

construction in a region of the image map corresponding to the road under construction

upon receipt of traffic information regarding road construction (claim 63), wherein said

map data arranging part arranges a plurality of object models representing construction

workers in the region of the image map corresponding to the road under construction

(claim 64), the communications information includes accident information indicating a

site of an accident, and said map data arranging part arranges the at least one object

model representing a traffic accident in a region of the image map corresponding to the

site of the accident (claim 66).

Yoshida teaches wherein the communications information includes information

indicating a road, said map data arranging part arranges the at least one object model

representing a road under construction in a region of the image map corresponding to

the road under construction (Figs. 71-72; column 40, lines 50-60, i.e. it is understood

that the traffic information extracted from the telegraphic messages for each area is the

communications information, which is being displayed in the region of the map

corresponding to the traffic incident being reported, such as a traffic jam, or road

closures due to an accident or road construction), the communications information

includes accident information indicating a site of an accident, and said map data

arranging part arranges the at least one object model representing a traffic accident in a

region of the image map corresponding to the site of the accident, as claimed in claim

66 (Figs. 3 (element 31B), 62, & 68; column 5, lines 35-45; column 41, lines 9-24, i.e. it

is understood that the accident information extracted from the telegraphic messages for

each area is the communications information, which is being displayed in the region of

the map corresponding to the accident).

Iwamura et al. teaches at least one 3D object model on the map (Figs. 2C, 5(A &

B), 10, 14B-17, and 27; column 1, lines 4-15; column 2, lines 49-58; column 3, lines 20-

39, 45-49, and 55-60; column 6, lines 5-10; column 10, lines 57-66; column 11, lines 23-

27 and 33-43; column 12, lines 5-12, 18-51, and 56-67, i.e. a 3D window for displaying

3D object models at specific locations is superimposed on a 2D or 3D perspective map).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the map display device of Okude et al. to include the teachings of Iwamura et al. and Yoshida thereby improving the traveling experience by supplying accurate traffic, accident, and weather information in real time so that the user can avoid trouble spots (Yoshida, Abstract; column 1, lines 9-15; Iwamura et al.: column 13, lines 1-8) which can be used both in normal situations and in case of emergency situations in an easily comprehensible way by including information regarding areas the user might want to avoid based on traffic and weather information as well as disaster information (Iwamura et al.: column 12, lines 18-51, i.e. the user may regard accidents, construction, traffic jams or weather conditions that conspire to make a road impassable to be a disaster).

Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okude et al. U.S. Patent No. 6175802 in view of Kakihara et al. U.S. Patent No. 5293163 and Iwamura et al. U.S. patent No. 5602564.

Referring to claim 68, Okude et al. teaches a map display device for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object model for arrangement on a map image, said map display device comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user (Fig. 1 (elements 1-4 & 1-5); column 4, lines 62-67); a map data storage part for storing map data (Fig. 1 (element 1-3); column 4, lines 53-61); an object model display information storage part for storing object model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows the

user to understand content of the communications information on the map image (Fig. 5

(elements 3-7, data read unit) & 19 (elements 19-1 & 19-2); column 7, lines 26-37); a

communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications

information including information which varies in real time (Fig. 1 (elements 1-7 thru 1-

11) & 5 (element 3-5), i.e. the current location detection unit indicates information which

varies in real time; column 5, lines 1-15) wherein the communication information

includes a traffic information receiver, which receives information regarding traffic

congestion, road construction or road closures (claim 63), available parking, etc (column

5, lines 15-25); a map data arranging part for creating the at least one object model by

interpreting the communications information and the object model display information

provided by said object model display information storage part and arranging the at

least one object model at a position on the map image based on the communications

information (Figs. 1 (element 1-1), 3, 5 & 19; columns 5-6, lines 50-19; columns 6-7,

lines 55-8, i.e. the operation and processing unit is understood to be the map data

arranging unit); and a display part for displaying a result map image including the map

image and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part

(Figs. 1 (element 1-2) & 24 (element 24-5); column 4, lines 45-53) but does not

specifically teach at least one 3D object model on the map nor wherein the

communications information includes information indicating availability of a specific

parking lot, said map data arranging part arranges the at least one object model

representing the availability in a region of the map image corresponding to the specific

parking lot and said map data arranging part arranges a plurality of vehicles in the

region of the map image corresponding to the specific parking lot.

Kakihara et al. teaches wherein the communications information includes

information indicating availability of a specific parking lot, said map data arranging part

arranges the at least one object model representing the availability in a region of the

map image corresponding to the specific parking lot (Fig. 20; column 13, lines 1-17).

Iwamura et al. teaches at least one 3D object model on the map (Figs. 2C, 5(A &

B), 10, 14B-17, and 27; column 1, lines 4-15; column 2, lines 49-58; column 3, lines 20-

39, 45-49, and 55-60; column 6, lines 5-10; column 10, lines 57-66; column 11, lines 23-

27 and 33-43; column 12, lines 5-12, 18-51, and 56-67, i.e. a 3D window for displaying

3D object models at specific locations is superimposed on a 2D or 3D perspective map).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the map display device of Okude et al. to

include the teachings of Iwamura et al. and Kakihara et al. thereby allowing the road

information required for driving to be displayed on the screen and hence notified directly

to the driver without reducing the visibility of the information displayed on the screen of

a displaying device and further reducing the amount of time required for searching for a

parking space (Kakihara et al. column 1, lines 45-51) which can be used both in normal

situations and in case of emergency situations by supplying accurate information in real

time so that the user can avoid trouble spots in an easily comprehensible way by

including information regarding areas the user might want to avoid based on traffic and

weather information as well as disaster information (Iwamura et al.: column 12, lines 18-

51, i.e. the user may regard accidents, construction, traffic jams or weather conditions

that conspire to make a road impassable to be a disaster).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/14/2006 with respect to amended claims 63, 64, 66

and 68 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues, with regard to the objection to the drawings, "...Regarding the

reference characters mentioned in the objection, except for elements 403-406 and 40, it

is noted that the substitute specification filed on October 28, 2003 includes amendments

that correct the issues pointed out by the Examiner. Regarding elements 403-406 and

40, the above-mentioned amendments to the specification address these issues. As a

result, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested...".

Examiner respectfully submits that the amendment filed 10/28/2003 did not

contain the substitute specification as indicated and thus the objection to the drawings is

maintained. Examiner requests that applicant's representative resubmit the substitute

specification along with a copy of the return receipt postcard indicating the amendment

filed with the Patent Office on 10/28/2003. If it is determined that the substitute

specification was properly submitted on 10/28/2003 the objection to the drawings will be

withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15, 16, 20, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 70, and 72 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 15, cited prior art does not teach a map display device for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object model for arrangement on a map image comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a map data storage part for storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map image; a communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information and the object model display information provided by said object model display information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on the map image based on the communications information; a display part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; and a time information storage part for storing time information corresponding to a position of a mobile unit which moves according to a schedule on a predetermined route, wherein the map data arranging part refers to the time information to create the at least one object model to correspond to the mobile unit for arrangement on the map image.

Claim 16 is allowed because it depends on claim 15.

Regarding claim 20, cited prior art does not teach a map display device for

converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object

model for arrangement on a map image comprising: an input part for receiving an

instruction from a user; a map data storage part for storing map data; an object model

display information storage part for storing object model display information for

displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows the user to

understand content of the communications information on the map image; a

communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications

information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for

creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information

and the object model display information provided by said object model display

information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on

the map image based on the communications information; a display part for displaying a

resultant map image including the map image and the at least one object model

obtained by said map data arranging part; and a ticket information storage part for

storing ticket information corresponding to a ticket used for paying a fare for a

predetermined chargeable section, wherein said map data arranging part generates the

ticket information stored in said ticket information storage part when the ticket is

purchased, the ticket information includes information about an expiration date of the

ticket, and said map data arranging part refers to the information about the expiration

date of the ticket, and if the expiration date is approaching, creates a message for display on said display part.

Regarding claim 35, cited prior art does not teach a navigation device for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object model for arrangement on a map image, and providing guidance to a destination, said navigation device comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a position detection part for detecting a current position; a map data storage part for storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map image; a route selection part for selecting a route to the destination based on the instruction provided by said input part, the current position detected by said position detection part, and the map data stored in said map data storage part; a communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information and the object model display information provided by said object model display information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on the map image based on the communications information; a guiding part for providing the guidance to the destination in response to the communications information received by said communications part, the route selected by said route selection part, the current position detected by said position detection part, and the map data provided by said

map data storage part and outputting a resultant map image including the map image

and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; a display

part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one

object model obtained by said map data arranging part; a time information storage part

for storing time information corresponding to a position of a mobile unit which moves

according to a schedule on a predetermined route, wherein said map data arranging

part refers to the time information to create the at least one object model to correspond

to the mobile unit for arrangement on the map image.

Claim 36 is allowed because it depends on claim 35.

Regarding claim 40, cited prior art does not teach a navigation device for

converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object

model for arrangement on a map image, and providing guidance to a destination, said

navigation device comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a

position detection part for detecting a current position; a map data storage part for

storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object

model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which

allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map

image; a route selection part for selecting a route to the destination based on the

instruction provided by said input part, the current position detected by said position

detection part, and the map data stored in said map data storage part; a

communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications

information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for

creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information

and the object model display information provided by said object model display

information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on

the map image based on the communications information; a guiding part for providing

the guidance to the destination in response to the communications information received

by said communications part, the route selected by said route selection part, the current

position detected by said position detection part, and the map data provided by said

map data storage part and outputting a resultant map image including the map image

and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; a display

part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one

object model obtained by said map data arranging part; and a ticket information storage

part for storing ticket information corresponding to a ticket used for paying a fare for a

predetermined chargeable section, wherein said guiding part generates the ticket

information stored in said ticket information storage part when the ticket is purchased,

the ticket information includes information about an expiration date of the ticket, and

said map data arranging part refers to the information about the expiration date of the

ticket, and if the expiration date is approaching, creates a message for display on said

display part.

Regarding claim 45, cited prior art does not teach a navigation device for

converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object

model for arrangement on a map image, and providing guidance to a destination, said

navigation device comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a

position detection part for detecting a current position; a map data storage part for

storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object

model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which

allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map

image; a route selection part for selecting a route to the destination based on the

instruction provided by said input part, the current position detected by said position

detection part, and the map data stored in said map data storage part; a

communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications

information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for

creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information

and the object model display information provided by said object model display

information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on

the map image based on the communications information; a guiding part for providing

the guidance to the destination in response to the communications information received

by said communications part, the route selected by said route selection part, the current

position detected by said position detection part, and the map data provided by said

map data storage part and outputting a resultant map image including the map image

and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; and a

display part for displaying the resultant map image outputted from said guiding part,

wherein said communications part receives the communications information including

position information about any available vehicles moving according to a schedule on

predetermined routes, and when the user desires to take one of the available vehicles,

transmits selected vehicle information including information for specifying which of the available vehicles the user desires to take, said guiding part generates the selected vehicle information when the user desires to take one of the available vehicles, and said guiding part compares, at least, the predetermined routes on which the available vehicles move with the route to the destination selected by said route selection part, and determines whether the available vehicles are appropriate.

Regarding claim 52, cited prior art does not teach a map display method for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object model for arrangement on a map image comprising an input process of receiving an instruction from a user; a communications process of receiving the communications information, the communication information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging process of creating at least one object model having a shape which allows the user to understand content of the communications information by interpreting the communications information and corresponding object model display information for displaying the at least one object model at a position on the map image based on the communications information; and a display process of displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one object model obtained in said map data arranging process, wherein said map data arranging process comprises creating the at least one object model corresponding to a mobile unit for arrangement on the map image by referring to time information corresponding to a position of the mobile unit moving on a predetermined route according to a schedule.

Regarding claim 70, cited prior art does not teach a map display device for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object model for arrangement on a map image comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a map data storage part for storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map image; a communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information and the object model display information provided by said object model display information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on the map image based on the communications information; a display part for displaying a resultant map image including the map image and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; and a ticket information storage part for storing ticket information corresponding to a ticket used for paying a fare for a predetermined chargeable section, wherein said map data arranging part generates the ticket information stored in said ticket information storage part when the ticket is purchased, and said map data arranging part changes the communications information based on the ticket information.

Regarding claim 72, cited prior art does not teach a navigation device for converting externally provided communications information into an applicable object

model for arrangement on a map image, and providing guidance to a destination, said

navigation device comprising: an input part for receiving an instruction from a user; a

position detection part for detecting a current position; a map data storage part for

storing map data; an object model display information storage part for storing object

model display information for displaying at least one object model having a shape which

allows the user to understand content of the communications information on the map

image; a route selection part for selecting a route to the destination based on the

instruction provided by said input part, the current position detected by said position

detection part, and the map data stored in said map data storage part; a

communications part for receiving the communications information, the communications

information including information which varies in real time; a map data arranging part for

creating the at least one object model by interpreting the communications information

and the object model display information provided by said object model display

information storage part, and arranging the at least one object model at a position on

the map image based on the communications information; a guiding part for providing

the guidance to the destination in response to the communications information received

by said communications part, the route selected by said route selection part, the current

position detected by said position detection part, and the map data provided by said

map data storage part and outputting a resultant map image including the map image

and the at least one object model obtained by said map data arranging part; a display

part for displaying the resultant map image outputted from said guiding part; and a ticket

information storage part for storing ticket information corresponding to a ticket used for

paying a fare for a predetermined chargeable section, wherein said map data arranging

part generates the ticket information stored in said ticket information storage part when

the ticket is purchased, wherein said guiding part generates the ticket information stored

in said ticket information storage part when the ticket is purchased, and said guiding

part changes the communications information based on the ticket information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later

than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberta Prendergast whose telephone number is (571) 272-7647. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached on (571) 272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RP 10/10/2006

ULKA CHAUHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER